गठन करने, इत्यादि जैसे अनेक कदम उठाए हैं। केन्द्र सरकार राज्य सरकार के साथ निरंतर सम्पर्क बनाए हुए है और मांग किए जाने पर राज्य सरकार को सभी संभव सहायता उपलब्ध करा रही है।

Visit of British M. P. to J and K

*52. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Kaufman, and M.P. belonging to Labour Party in the U.K. visited J & K in the second week of August, 1991;

(b) whether he had stated that J & K is not a bilateral issue but an international one; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mr. Kaufman had advocated a peaceful and negotiated solution of the Kashmir question. In this context he had put forward the idea of a possible Commonwealth role in resolving the Kashmir issue.

(c) It was impressed upon Mr. Kaufman that the Government hopes to resolve this matter with Pakistan bilaterally and through peaceful negotiations in terms of the Simla Agreement and that there was no question of any mediation, good offices or intervention by any third party, including the Commonwealth.

Legal Hurdles faced by MTNL

*53. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article that appeared in the 'Indian Express', Bombay of August 1, 1991 titled 'Legal hurdles bog down MTNL';

(b) the amount of loss to the MTNL during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91; and

(c) what is estimated loss to MTNL during the current financial year due to this lacunae in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has informed that it is not possible to ascertain the amount of loss.

Ambushes and killings in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur

*54. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ten policemen and at least five Army jawans were ambushed and killed in Karbi Anglong District of Assam and Manipur's Ukhrul District on August 14, 1991;

(b) whether the Speaker of Nagaland Assembly was also injured in the ambush in Assam;

(c) whether Assam's Karbi Anglong District was observing a bandh on the day of the incident;

(d) if so, what was the cause of the bandh; and

(e) whether ambushes and killings in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur by militants are on the increase?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Four Jawans of Assam Rifles and ten Policemen were killed respectively in two ambushes one laid in the Ukhrul district of Manipur on 13th August, 1991 and the other in the Karbi-Anglong district of Assam on 14th August 1991.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A 100 hour bandh was being observed in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam on 13th and 14th August, 1991 to press for the demand for an Autonomous State under Article 244(A) of the Constitution.

(e) There has been an upward trend in the number of persons killed by the militants in these States and in the number of violent incidents in Assam and Nagaland.

Container pilferages at Calcutta and Haldia Ports

*55. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increasing incidents of container pilferages at Calcutta and Haldia Ports have been brought to the notice of the Central Government by the shippers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken to identify the racket and to check pilferages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

There have been no complaints by Shippers of this nature in the recent past except for two complaints by Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) to Calcutta Port Trust (CPT). These related to:—

(i) Shortage found at destination in some Containers transported by road from Calcutta to Haldia; and

(ii) One case of pilferage of carpets from a container outside dock area at Haldia.

The matter was taken up with concerned authorities of State Government. In any case, Shipping Corporation of India have since discontinued road movement from Calcutta to Haldia.

*56. [*Transferred to 3rd September, 1991*]

JKLF propaganda against India

*57. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front have been carrying on a campaign against India in the United Kingdom; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Our High Commission in London keeps in close and constant touch with British MPs from all parties, with the media, and other influential opinion-markers including within the Indian community, explain our point of view in detail on the Kashmir issue.

Withdrawal of scheme to meter local telephone calls every three minutes

*58. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to drop the scheme of metering local telephone calls every three minutes in Bombay and Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the places in the world where this kind of scheme operates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir. The scheme of metering local telephone calls every three minutes is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.